

Spend, Save, and Share

Perhaps you babysit, mow lawns or do something else to earn money? Maybe you have a part-time job? Those greenbacks can certainly bring some liberation, which feels pretty good. Liberation also brings responsibility, which also leads to new options for you. Have you thought about what you're going to do with the money you earn? We hope you are thinking of three words - spend, save and share.

It's almost a guarantee that you'll not have a problem finding ways to spend your cash. For starters, you'll need to buy food. There are things you might want to buy like super cool sports gear or video games. You might want a closet full of shoes. Are you spending your hard earned money on wants versus needs? Be sure to pay attention to the choices you make – you'll be glad you did.

Saving your earnings is the key to a healthy financial future. Prepare to save money for items you think you'll want soon like a new mobile device. You'll also want to save for things you'd like to buy in the future like paying for concert tickets or taking a vacation. Is a car in your future? You'll need fuel, oil changes and new tires. Did you distinguish wants versus needs in these saving opportunities?

Can you really make a plan to share your money? Certainly. You can often have a big impact on your community and the world by donating some of your money to important projects. What's important to you? Do you love animals? Think about donating some of your time, talent and resources to the cause. Just look around, there are many great ways you can help others.

Every time you get paid be sure to include spending, saving, and sharing as a part of your plan. One way to do this is to have three jars at home and label them with "Spend", "Save", and "Share". Let's say you earned \$50 last week. You might spend \$30, save \$15, and share \$5. Or you might spend \$20, save \$20, and share \$10.

Take advantage of the jars. It is important to split the money up right away. If you decide to wait until the end of the week to save and share what you have leftover, there often won't be any money left. Instead save and share first, and spend what you have left. Eventually, you'll want to move some money from your jars to your savings account(s) to keep your money safe.

Creating this habit with your money now will help you build a healthy financial future so you are able to do the things you need and want to with your money. Good luck and have fun with it! Enjoy the journey!

